



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE **108th** CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 149

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2003

No. 43

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Rev. Charles V. Antonicelli of Saint Joseph's Church on Capitol Hill.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

We give You thanks and praise this day, Lord God of justice and peace. You are the source of all that is good in our world.

Psalm 37 reminds us that "if you trust in the Lord and do good, then you will live in the land and be secure. If you find your delight in the Lord, He will grant your heart's desire. Commit your life to the Lord, trust in Him and He will act, so that your justice breaks forth like the light, your cause like the noon-day sun."

Almighty Father, bless Your sons and daughters who seek to do Your will this day. May we find our delight in You so that You may grant our hearts' desires. Help us to commit our lives to You and let Your justice shine bright in our world.

We ask this in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable HARRY REID, a Senator from the State of Nevada, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CHAMBLISS). The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will resume consideration of the budget resolution. There are now 42 hours remaining under the statutory limit. In order to process amendments, it will be necessary to have lengthy sessions throughout this week in order to complete action on the budget resolution. Members who intend to offer amendments are encouraged to notify the managers of the bill so there can be an orderly consideration of those amendments.

As a reminder, there will be a cloture vote, beginning at 12 noon today, on the nomination of Miguel Estrada. In addition, the Senate may recess for the weekly party caucuses to meet during today's session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority whip.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the manager of the bill, Senator CONRAD, is with Senator DASCHLE now. He has an amendment that he is ready to offer. We have discussed that with Senator NICKLES.

What we need to work out is to see if we can charge the time during the time set aside for the weekly party conferences. We have not worked that out yet. We are in the process of trying to do that.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. Con. Res. 23, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 23) setting forth the congressional budget for

the United States Government for fiscal year 2004 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2003 and for fiscal years 2005 through 2013.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum and ask unanimous consent that the time be charged equally.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 264

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today to offer the first amendment to the budget resolution pending before us. I believe this is a critically important amendment as our Nation is on the brink of war.

After the President's speech of last night, I don't know what could be more clear than we are on the eve of conflict. The budget before us, submitted by the President, the budget that came out of the Budget Committee, contains no provision for that conflict. There is no money for conflict. There is no money for reconstruction. There is no money for occupation. There is no money.

Some have said, well, they have looked at the history and found that in the past wars were not budgeted for until operations have begun. I suggest operations have begun. We have nearly a quarter of a million troops poised on the border with Iraq. We have hundreds of thousands of reservists who have been called up. We have five carrier battle groups in the area. Operations have begun. We have special forces in Iraq at this moment. We are conducting air operations over Iraq at this moment. Who can assert that operations have not begun?

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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